Head and neck erythema associated with the use of dupilumab in patients with atopic dermatitis

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Background:

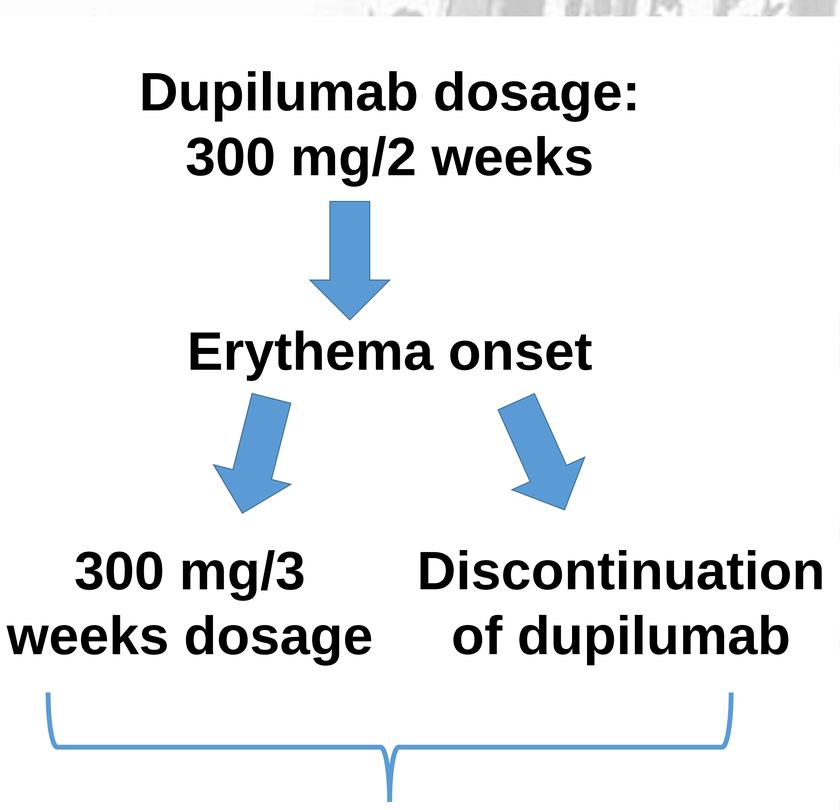
Dupilumab can be used for the treatment of atopic dermatitis, with an usual dose of 200 or 300 mg/2 weeks. Head and neck erythema is not listed as an adverse effect in its technical data sheet.

Objective:

To describe the resolution of erythema associated with dupilumab (adverse reaction not described in the technical data sheet) by extending the dosing interval.

Material and methods:

- Retrospective observational study of patients with atopic dermatitis treated with dupilumab in January 2023.
- Using telephone interview, electronic medical records and outpatient dispensing records, the following information was collected: sex, age, date of treatment initiation, date of erythema onset, other adverse reactions, dosage, extension of dupilumab dosing interval, date of change of dosage, resolution or not of erythema and other adverse effects after dosing adjustment, influence of alcohol consumption on erythema.



Results:

- Of 44 patients treated with dupilumab, **3 developed erythema,** mainly on the head and neck.
- All 3 were women, aged 30-60 years, receiving **300 mg/2 weeks of dupilumab** at the time of erythema onset.
- 2 patients had complete or partial **resolution** of erythema with the **300 mg/3 weeks dose**.
- Another patient **discontiued dupilumab** treatment due to primary ineffectiveness, **erythema disappeared** one month later.
- **Ocular adverse effects** (dryness, irritation and/or conjunctivitis) **completely resolved** with a change in dosage or discontinuation of dupilumab.
- **Alcohol consumption** is a **posible trigger** of dupilumab-associated erythema, **2 patients** confirmed it.

Conclusions:

Head and neck erythema appears to be associated with the use of dupilumab, as an adverse effect not described in the data sheet. Extension of the experimental dosing interval to 300 mg/3 weeks or discontinuation of dupilumab partially or completely resolves the erythema in these patients.